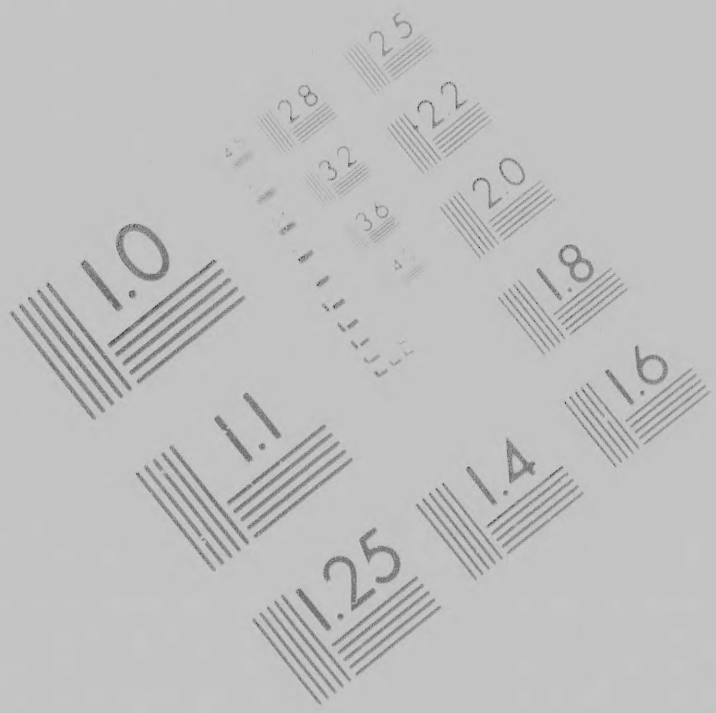

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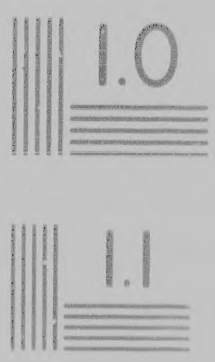

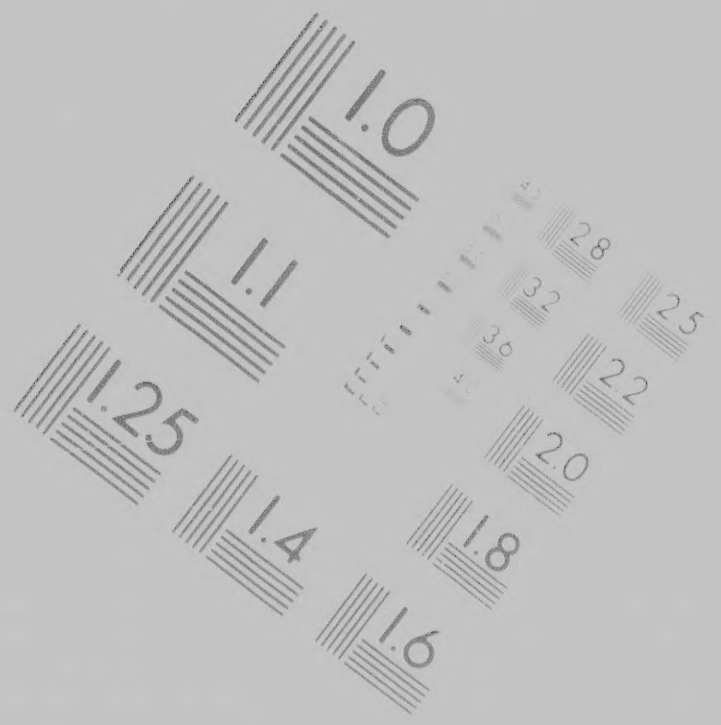

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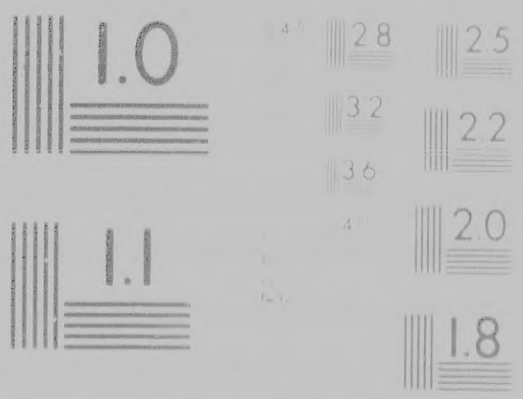

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BY THE UNITED STATES IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.

APRIL 23, 1784.

RESOLVED,

THAT ſo much of the territory ceded, or to be ceded by individual ſtates, to the United States, as is already purchaſed, or ſhall be purchaſed, of the Indian inhabitants, and offered for ſale by Congreſs, ſhall be divided into diſtinct ſtates in the following manner, as nearly as ſuch ceſſions will admit; that is to ſay, by parallels of latitude, ſo that each ſtate ſhall comprehend from north to ſouth two degrees of latitude, begining to count from the completion of forty-five degrees north of the equator; and by meridians of longitude, one of which ſhall paſs through the loweſt point of the rapids of Ohio, and the other through the weſtern cape of the mouth of the great Kanhaway: but the territory eaſtward of this laſt meridian, between the Ohio, lake Erie, and Pennſylvania, ſhall be one ſtate, whatſoever may be its comprehenſion of latitude. That which may lie beyond the completion of the forty-fifth degree between the ſaid meridians ſhall make part of the ſtate adjoining it on the ſouth; and that part of the Ohio, which is between the ſame meridians coinciding nearly with the parallel of thirty-nine degrees, ſhall be ſubſtituted ſo far in lieu of that parallel as a boundary line.

That the ſettlers on any territory ſo purchaſed and offered for ſale, ſhall, either on their own petition, or on the order of Congreſs, receive authority from them, with appointments of time and place, for their three males of full age, within the limits of their ſtate, to meet together, for the purpoſe of eſtabliſhing a temporary government, to adopt the conſtitution and laws of any one of the original ſtates; ſo that ſuch laws nevertheleſs ſhall be ſubject to alteration by their ordinary legiſlature; and to erect, ſubject to a like alteration, counties, townſhips, or other diviſions, for the election of members for their legiſlature.

That when any ſuch ſtate ſhall have acquired twenty thouſand free inhabitants, on giving due proof thereof to Congreſs, they ſhall receive from them authority, with appointments of time and place, to call a convention of repreſentatives, to eſtabliſh a permanent conſtitution and government for themſelves. Provided that both the temporary and permanent governments be eſtabliſhed on theſe principles as their baſis.

FIRST. That they ſhall for ever remain a part of this confederacy of the United States of America.

SECOND. That they ſhall be ſubject to the articles of confederation in all thoſe caſes, in which the ori-

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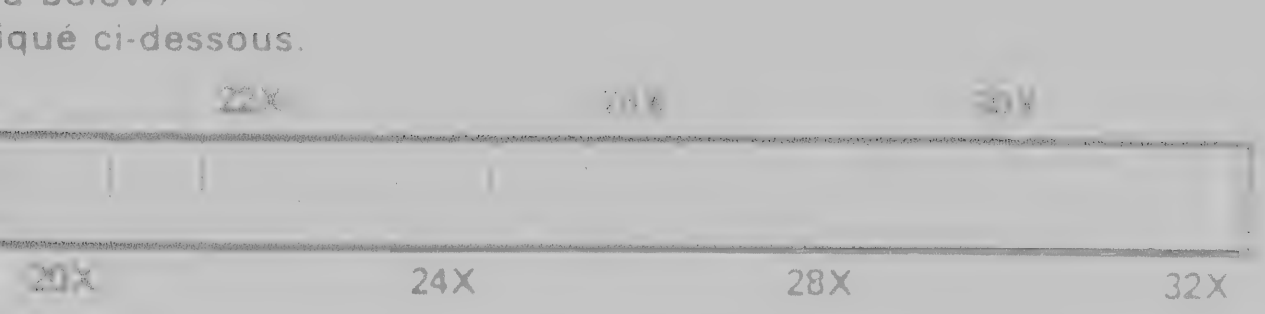

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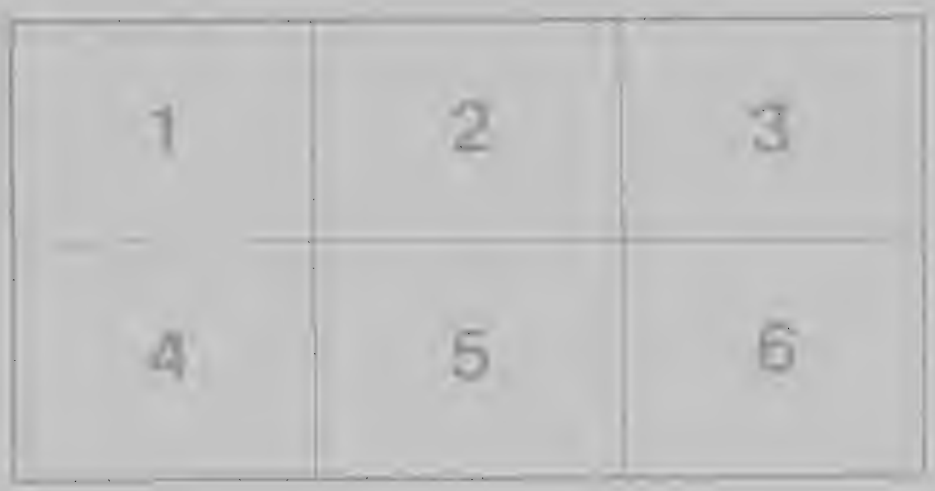

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FIRST. That they ſhall for ever remain a part of this confederacy of the United States of America.

SECOND. That they ſhall be ſubject to the articles of confederation in all thoſe caſes, in which the original ſtates ſhall be ſo ſubject; and to all the acts and ordinances of the United States in Congreſs aſſembled, conformable thereto.

THIRD. That they in no caſe ſhall interfere with the primary diſpoſal of the ſoil by the United States Congreſs aſſembled; nor with the ordinances and regulations which Congreſs may find neceſſary for ſecuring the title in ſuch ſoil to the bona fide purchaſers.

FOURTH. That they ſhall be ſubject to pay a part of the federal debts, contracted or to be contracted; be apportioned on them by Congreſs, according to the ſame common rule and meaſure by which apportionments thereof ſhall be made on the other ſtates.

FIFTH. That no tax ſhall be impoſed on lands the property of the United States.

SIXTH. That their reſpective governments ſhall be republican.

SEVENTH. That the lands of non-reſident proprietors ſhall in no caſe be taxed higher than thoſe of reſidents within any new ſtate, before the admiſſion thereof to a vote by its delegates in Congreſs.

That whenſoever any of the ſaid ſtates ſhall have of free inhabitants, as many as ſhall then be in any one, the leaſt numerous, of the thirteen original ſtates, ſuch ſtate ſhall be admitted by its delegates into the Congreſs of the United States, on an equal footing with the ſaid original ſtates; provided the conſent of ſo many ſtates in Congreſs is firſt obtained as may at the time be competent to ſuch admiſſion. And in order to adapt the ſaid articles of confederation to the ſtate of Congreſs, when its number ſhall be thus increaſed, it ſhall be propoſed to the legiſlatures of the ſtates, originally parties thereto, to require the aſſent of two thirds of the United States in Congreſs aſſembled, in all thoſe caſes, wherein by the ſaid articles, the aſſent of nine ſtates is now required; which being agreed to by them, ſhall be binding on the new ſtates. Until ſuch admiſſion by their delegates into Congreſs, any of the ſaid ſtates after the eſtabliſhment of their temporary government ſhall have authority to keep a member in Congreſs, with a right of debating, but not of voting.

That meaſures not inconſiſtent with the principles of the confederation, and neceſſary for the preſervation of peace and good order among the ſettlers, in any of the ſaid new ſtates, until they ſhall aſſume a temporary government as aforeſaid, may from time to time be taken by the United States in Congreſs aſſembled.

That the preceding articles ſhall be formed into a charter of compact; ſhall be duly executed by the preſident of the United States in Congreſs aſſembled, under his hand, and the ſeal of the United States; and ſhall be promulgated; and ſhall ſtand as fundamental conſtitutions between the thirteen original ſtates, and each of the ſeveral ſtates now newly deſcribed, unalterable from and after the ſale of any part of the territory of ſuch ſtate, purſuant to this reſolve, but by the joint conſent of the United States in Congreſs aſſembled, and of the particular ſtate within which ſuch alteration is propoſed to be made.